

Our Journey -- The Season of Formation

Romans 8:29 -- Mirror Translation

For those He foreknew -- He also predestined to be conformed to the exact image of His Son.

Continuing Our Ascent -- The Awakening

June 8, 2026

**Sermon Title** – **Looking Behind the Door**

**Anchor Text** -- **Proverbs 4:23** **Passion Translation**

So above all -- guard the affections of your heart -- for they affect all that you truly are. Pay attention to the welfare of your innermost being -- for from there flows the wellspring of life.

### **Introduction**

Last week I handed you a Kingdom Key ... We established that you are the sole gatekeeper – of your soul ... That the responsibility of managing your mind / thought life – belongs entirely to you ... I hope you put into practice the take away I left you with last week ... You were to identify a recurring thought pattern ... Once that pattern was identified – you were to begin the process of replacing that thought with a kingdom truth.

This week – we are going to go a little deeper ... You know that key you hold? ... The one that opens the door to your soul? ... We are going to take that key – unlock that door – and take an honest look at what is living on the inside.

Let me create for you a mental image to work with ... Anyone who has worked on a piece of equipment that suddenly stopped working – will understand this illustration ... Say you are troubleshooting an outdoor air conditioning unit that won't turn on ... You check the breaker and it is fine ... So now you look for the electrical access panel on the unit ... Once you find it – you remove the screws and open the panel door ... And there it is ... You discover a rat's nest ... The panel is full of debris – the wires are chewed and corroded ... Now it all makes sense

why the compressor isn't turning on ... The unit wasn't defective – nor was it a compressor problem ... It was a wiring problem ... And you couldn't have found the problem – until you opened the panel door and looked inside.

That is exactly what we are going to do this morning ... We are going to take the key – open the door – and take a look at the wiring on this inside ... Some of what we find may surprise you ... Some of it will make complete sense ... But all of it will explain – why certain areas of your life – have not been functioning in the way – God designed them to.

## **Your Door Was Never Properly Guarded**

### **Matthew 12:43-45 New Living Translation**

“When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none ... 44 Then it says, ‘I will return to the person I came from.’ So, it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and in order. ... 45 Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before. That will be the experience of this evil generation.”

Notice what Jesus is describing here ... In essence – He is describing the soul of a person – who has experienced some house cleaning – but never guarded the door – to keep the intruders out ... And because of this negligence – the soul of that person is worse off than before.

This is one of the most sobering pictures Jesus ever painted ... This text clearly expresses what I want to share with you this morning ... An unguarded door to the soul never stays neutral on its own ... When unguarded it is an open invitation to all who desire to enter ... Remember – your mind is always listening ... Whatever has consistent access to an unguarded mind – will eventually move in – take up residence – and begin running the house ... Not all at once – but slowly – quietly – one unchallenged thought at a time.

Unfortunately – most people were never taught the importance of guarding the door of their heart ... Proverbs 4:23 begins with three powerful words – “Above ALL else” – yet how seriously do you heed these words? ... Nobody ever explained the seriousness of what happens when a thought enters your mind unchallenged – it gets wired in ... Nobody warned you that repeated thoughts of fear – rejection – shame – or cultural narratives would eventually create deeply carved pathways – which over time – developed your default belief system.

### **Mystical Nugget**

Your default operating system was programmed by many different factors ... And because you were never told it was your responsibility to “guard your heart above all else” ... You simply believed everything you were told ... Things like – never question those in authority ... That other people know better than you do – because they have all these letters after their name ... Or my personal favorite – “follow the science” ... Catch this – you can’t stop all the verbiage that comes your way ... But you can guard your heart – to keep it from getting on the inside of you.

Because so many people have never been taught this principle of guarding their heart – or they simply chose not to put that teaching into practice – there are serious consequences to this failure ... Just like our air conditioning unit – the body stops functioning the way it was designed to ... See – everything may look fine on the outside – but something on the inside has been quietly malfunctioning the entire time ... So, let's open the panel and take an honest look at what is living in there.

### **Exposing the Rats Nest**

#### **2 Timothy 1:7 Amplified**

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity – or cowardice – or fear - - but He has given us a spirit of power – and of love – and of sound judgment – and personal discipline.

This point could go in so many directions – just like a tech who opens the operational panel of the air conditioning unit – you never know what you will discover ... But what I would like to

expose is one of the most common issues that is always living behind an unguarded door - -  
FEAR.

I'm not talking about anxiety that arises from an occasional difficult situation ... I'm talking about those deeply grooved neuropathways that have been forming for years ... Those pathways that kick in automatically – that filters every decision ... A fear so embedded in your internal wiring – that you have just simply accepted it – as being a part of who you are.

But here is what Paul makes unmistakably clear – God didn't put it there ... Fear is not a fruit of the Spirit ... It is not a kingdom reality ... It is not part of the original design ... This means the fear that is constantly running in the background of your thought process – was planted by something other than God ... You have been living in this constant state of being – without ever giving yourself permission to do so.

This is what a mental rat's nest actually looks like ... It is quiet – hidden out of sight – yet deeply embedded in the thought process that it influences every response you have ... When someone reacts to you in a manner you didn't expect – fear is activated ... When your health takes an unexpected turn – it rises its ugly head ... When an unexpected financial situation arise – fear is right there telling you that you will never survive this blow ... This is a clear indication that you have been quietly malfunctioning – dare I say – most of your life – all due to a wiring problem

Now that you have opened the door ... Now that you understand why certain things are not working properly ... Now that you know your issue was never a faith nor character problem ... Now that you understand that you have had a wiring problem ... It is time to rewire that panel with new – kingdom wiring

**Everybody Deals with Faulty Wiring**

**Romans 8:15 New Living Translation**

So, you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him "Abba Father."

Let's play technician for a moment ... We have opened the panel and discovered we need to deal with the wiring ... Here Paul clearly exposes a specific issue that needs to be repaired ... He identifies this corrupted wiring as a spirit of fear.

### **Mystical Nugget**

You were never designed to live your life – as a fearful slave to another person – nor to a corrupted worldly system ... We have all been wired to live in fear of people and this cultural system ... Don't deny it – don't argue with it – don't fight against it ... Recognize it for what it is ... We were all programmed with the wiring of fear ... Remember – you can't fix what you deny – nor clearly identify as a problem ... So let me help you ... You function at a certain level of fear every day ... This isn't condemnation – this is reality

Now catch this – Paul didn't leave us hanging there ... He then states – “Instead you received God's Spirit” ... How are we to understand this? ... First – acknowledge you have neuropathways of fear ... The specific issue of fear doesn't matter at this point ... Think about it this way ... If a technician saw a rat's nest and chewed – corroded wires in the panel of an air condition unit ... He wouldn't troubleshoot each wired – he would do a major overhaul ... So – look at what I am sharing as a major overhaul ... Or to stay in context of our journey – awaken to the fact that you have been programmed to live as a fearful slave to this natural realm.

Now let's rewire the entire panel ... Paul said – we have received God's Spirit ... So, let's take a moment and do this little visual exercise ... Close your eyes if you like ... Look with your mind's eye into your soul ... See that panel – that has been wired by a spirit of fear ... Now – open the door – and reach your hand into it – and rip out all those wires ... Now – take a cloth and wipe that panel completely clean ... Stay with me ... Now – see yourself placing new wires in that panel by the Spirit ... Each wire is golden – shiny – and glowing ... Feel the warmth these new wires are giving off – see the glow ... Now shut the door and lock it ... You now have the ability to function in complete freedom without any fear.

## 1 John 4:17-18 The Message

God is love ... When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, - - we live in God - - and God lives in us. ... This way, - love has the run of the house, - becomes at home and mature in us, - so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day - - - our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. ... There is no room in love for fear. ... Well-formed love banishes fear. ... Since fear is crippling, - a fearful life - - fear of death, - - fear of judgment - - is one not yet fully formed in love.

### Takeaway

Let's be honest – no one likes opening some kind of panel and finding a rat's nest ... Nor do we as people – like admitting that we have faulty wiring ... But if we are not honest in identifying the issue – the problem will never be repaired ... Can you imagine hiring a technician to come out to your home because your air conditioner unit wasn't working ... You watch him open the panel – where you can clearly see – a rat's nest – corroded wires – a complete mess ... Then he simply shuts the panel door and tells you – I couldn't find anything wrong – you most likely need a complete unit replacement ... If that happened – you would fire him on the spot.

This morning you opened the panel and found defective wiring ... Now the question becomes – what will you do about it? ... Simply close the door and go on pretending everything is working fine? ... I just shared with you a simple – practical exercise that you can do – to tear out the old wiring and replace it with the new ... The question now becomes – will you do that simple exercise – on a consistent basis – until you feel that inward assurance – that your panel has been rewired? ... Then - - Once it is rewired – will you guard that panel – above all else – so that rats never get in it again?

### Proverbs 4:23 Passion Translation

So above all ... guard the affections of your heart ... for they affect all that you truly are. ... Pay attention to the welfare of your innermost being ... for from there flows the wellspring of life.